

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3rd.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Rachel Dyer; Al Durgin; Kate Ende; Suzanne Farley; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus, and Susan White

Department: Derrick Grant; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert, and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Ellen Baker; Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Norma Desjardins; Kate Ende; Carol Francis; Brooke Holton; Diane Johanson; Temika Jones; Becca Matusovich; Kathy Ridley; Malory Shaughnessy, and Jessi Wright

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- Michelle noted that the Behavioral Health supplemental payments that were passed as part of the FY21 budget were distributed last week.
- The American Rescue Plan has an enhanced FMAP opportunity for HCBS services. The Department has submitted an application for the initiative to CMS. We are awaiting word on the application.
- The Department is planning to post a link to the spending plan we submitted to CMS to our blog.

b) Rate System Evaluation Process

- The Department is still accessing the outcomes of the LDs from the legislative session.

- **Rate Subcommittee Meeting Updates** – There are no updates this month, but there will be a Rate System Evaluation meeting August 23rd at 2:00 p.m.
- Malory Shaughnessy asked about implementation dates for the rate increases, and whether some might be retroactive to July 1. Michelle noted the Department is currently working through those details. In some cases, the Department was not consulted in terms of implementation dates, and due to some requirements, like State Plan Amendment changes, it may not be possible to have a July 1 effective date. The Department is in the process of determining where the conflicts are, and determining next steps.
- The question was posed as to whether the Estate Recovery changes will eventually be retroactive. Maine Equal Justice has received inquiries from folks who want to be sure if they enroll now that will not hurt them. Jenny noted it is an ongoing conversation, so we do not have an answer to that question yet.

c.) **Adult Dental Benefit/ Dental Rates Changes**

- Derrick noted the Department is currently at the stage of getting the necessary people at the table to identify things that need resolution.
- The dental subcommittee has been primarily provider focused. They would like to include individuals who are directly impacted in the process.
- MAC subcommittees are open to people who are not MAC members. The next meeting of the dental subcommittee is August 9th.
- Becca Matusovich noted that, in addition to designing the benefit, she hopes the dental subcommittee will give thought to what it will take to prepare the system, what it will take to ramp up provider capacity, and what work will need to happen beyond designing the benefit.
- Beath Pearce asked if there is a timeline on the Department side. Derrick noted we do not have a work plan yet, but it is a high priority. Meeting with the subcommittee is a first step in that workplan.

d.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review With Jenny Patterson**

- Jenny noted that since the work of the Policy unit is so closely tied to LDs we are still determining the timeline to get CMS approvals and make the policy changes as efficiently as possible.
- The Section 21 Waiver Amendment is currently open for comment. The comment deadline is August 23, 2021. There will also be an associated rulemaking for Section 21 that has not been proposed yet.

The Department is planning to go forward soon with the COVID emergency rule and proposing Chapter I and PC 2.0 now renamed PC Plus.

d.) **Interest in Reconstituting the Communications Subcommittee**

- Jillian inquired as to whether there is interest in resurrecting the communications subcommittee. She is wondering if anyone has concerns over communication, and whether anyone might be interested in joining the group.
- Malory noted MaineCare used to sit down with different provider groups to discuss the flow of processes and have conversations once or twice a year to just touch base. She suggested the communications group could be used to open 2 way communication between the Department and providers outside of the formal constructs.
- Jillian will set a date to bring the communications subcommittee together after the September MAC meeting. Sarah Grant will plan to attend.

e.) **Chair/Vice Chair Election at September 7th MAC Meeting**

- A reminder that the MAC Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the September meeting. Kathy is willing to continue to serve as Chair, but if there is someone else who is interested in the position please feel free to contact Sarah Grant.
- Michelle will re-access compliance with MAC participation requirements. Also, the MAC membership should include a physician who is not a MaineCare employee.

g.) **Wrap Up**

The agenda for the next meeting will include a discussion on wet signature requirements

The next meeting is September 7th at 10:00 a.m.

- Let Kathy know of any agenda item requests for the next meeting.
- A reminder that the Chair/Vice Chair elections will be held at the September 7th MAC meeting.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver